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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,993	10/19/2001	Ramon A. Gomez	1875.0390000	7136

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TUYEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2832

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/981,993	Applicant(s) GOMEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner TUYEN T NGUYEN	Art Unit 2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 10-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-7 and 11-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 10, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al. [US 5,515,022] in view of Kimura et al. [JP 62-152111].

Tashiro et al. discloses a multi-layered inductor comprising:

- a plurality of layers [21-23];
- a first spiral conductive pattern [31] disposed on a surface of one of the layers;
- a second spiral conductive pattern [32] disposed on a surface of another one of the layers, oppositely wound from the first spiral conductive pattern;
- a continuing interconnection [35] coupled to the first and second spiral conductive patterns; and
- an interface structure [figure 3] including first and second terminals [310, 61] disposed on a single one of the surfaces, wherein the first terminal is coupled to the first spiral conductive pattern and the second terminal is coupled to the second spiral conductive pattern.

Tashiro et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for the specific shielding structure.

Kimura et al. discloses an inductor/transformer device comprising:

- a plurality of insulating layers [2];
- a coil structure comprising:
 - at least one first conductive patterns/lines [3A-3D] disposed on top surface of one of the plurality of the insulating layers;
 - at least one second conductive patterns/lines [13A-13D] disposed on top surface of the other one of the plurality insulating layers;
 - top and bottom one conductive shield members [1A, 1G], each of which disposed on top surface of one of the insulating layers sandwiched the coil structure, wherein the conductive shield member having a common voltage potentials; and
 - terminal electrodes [8A, 8B, 16A, 16B]

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the shielding structure of Kimura et al. in the device of Tashiro et al. for the purpose of providing protection against electromagnetic fields.

Regarding claim 10, Kimura et al. discloses the conductive shield members can be grounded and arranged in close vicinity of the coil without having no influence of the effect of the coil.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/16/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that:

Kimura discloses coil electrodes [8A, 8B] on the conductive shield member [1A] and if grounding conductive shield member would “short out coils 8A and 8B].

The examiner disagrees.

Examiner would like to point out that the terminal electrodes [8A, 8B] are electrically isolated from the conductive shield member [1A, see figures 1-2] and disposed to complete the coil structure [3A-3D] when connect to a printed circuit board. Therefore, when grounding the conductive shield member [1A], it would not short out the coil structure.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUYEN T NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-1966. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:30.

Art Unit: 2832

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTN *TTN*

Tuyen Nguyen